Lawrence Martin Statements in support of Dissertation: The Use of Ecosystem Services Information for Environmental Decision-Making

- 1. Ecosystem services valuation procedures are a good way to communicate the importance of ecological health and ecological systems' integrity to stakeholders or society at large.
- 2. Information based upon ecosystem services valuations provide valuable inputs for decisionmakers, and depending on the question or problem, can promote achievement of environmental protection objectives.
- 3. Qualitative use of ecosystem services information can, with success and time, lead to support for the more resource intensive use of quantitative ecosystem services information to inform decisions.
- 4. The valuation of natural resources is a limited application of ecosystem services valuation, but as a standard accounting practice, it is a constructive introduction to the broader ecosystem services concept.
- 5. Ecosystem services information can be a tool for sustainability assessment and offers a framework to integrate social, economic and environmental metrics with the time dimension.
- 6. The choice of decision-making methods is influenced by the subjective, normative values subscribed to by the decision-maker.
- 7. The choice of a well-accepted decision-making framework introduces subjective bias into the analysis of objective data by favoring established and conservative value propositions.
- 8. Data collection to inform decisions in public administration, no matter how relevant, can be ineffectual when decision-makers value different data more highly, or an employ an analytical framework that does not admit the validity or relevance of the collected data.
- 9. Sustainability concepts, including ecosystem services, can bridge between value-based beliefs and instrumental rationality.
- 10. Social science is most valuable to society when it is applied to solving real-world problems.
- 11. If you only search for the key under the lamppost because that is the only place where there is light to see, you may find it none-the-less.